

The Problem: Cars and Trucks Create Air Pollution

Since the 1970s, the automobile industry has made great progress in reducing air pollution from motor vehicles. Despite this, New Hampshire faces environmental and public health challenges as the demand for personal transportation continues to increase. More vehicles on the roads traveling more miles means that cars and trucks are still a significant source of air pollution.



Nationwide, the number of miles driven has doubled during the last twenty years!

In New Hampshire, motor vehicles on our highways produce:

- More than half of the emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). NOx and VOCs react together on hot sunny days to form ground-level ozone, or “smog,” a respiratory irritant and public health threat, particularly in the Northeast.
- More than 80% of carbon monoxide (CO) emissions. CO is a poisonous gas that reduces the delivery of oxygen to tissues and organs.
- Almost half (47%) of the most prevalent toxic air emissions. Air toxics pose potential long-term, permanent risks, including cancer.
- The largest amounts of carbon dioxide (CO₂) of any source category (38%). CO₂ is a greenhouse gas and is the major contributor to global climate change.

Source: NHDES Emissions Inventory Data

The Solution: “Cleaner” Cars

Automobiles manufactured today come in a wide variety of makes and models for the consumer to choose from. All new vehicles are rated for fuel economy (miles per gallon) and are certified to meet certain emissions standards. Within the same class of vehicles (e.g., compact, midsize, large cars), there is a range of fuel economy ratings and emissions levels.

Many new vehicles are now available that get better fuel economy and have lower emissions. Consumers CAN help reduce air pollution without sacrificing vehicle use or size by paying attention to fuel economy ratings and emissions levels when shopping for a new vehicle.

- **Fuel Economy Ratings** - Higher fuel economy means savings on fuel costs and reduced emissions of air pollutants.



The difference between a car that gets 20 mpg and one that gets 30 mpg is \$1,500 over 5 years (based on a cost of \$1.50 per gallon of gasoline) and 10 tons of CO₂ emissions.

- **Emissions Levels** - Vehicles are certified to different standards, based on their exhaust emissions levels. “Low Emission Vehicles” (or LEVs) are available today that are cleaner and less polluting. Emissions control information from the manufacturer is located under the hood.

Certified Low Emission Vehicles are twice as clean as non-LEV vehicles, which just meet minimum federal standards!

To choose a cleaner car, look under the hood:



Be a Smart Consumer!

Consumers are now able to take a positive step toward improving air quality and the environment by purchasing a cleaner car. New Hampshire car dealers are voluntarily participating in a program to help new car shoppers identify less polluting, more fuel-efficient new vehicles.

Through the **Granite State Clean Cars** program, participating dealers place a **Granite State Clean Cars** label in the window of new vehicles that meet environmentally superior performance ratings. To qualify for a label, a new vehicle must:

- **Have a highway fuel economy rating of 30 miles per gallon or better; and**
- **Be classified as (in order of least polluting):**

SULEV - Super Ultra Low Emission Vehicle; or
ULEV - Ultra Low Emission Vehicle; or
LEV - Low Emission Vehicle



When you shop for a new car, look for the label that identifies **Granite State Clean Cars**. Ask your dealer about a car or truck with higher fuel economy and lower emissions.

Benefits of Cleaner Cars

- Achieve higher fuel economy.
- Save money on fuel costs over the life of the vehicle.
- Reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases.
- Lower emissions of toxic air pollutants.
- Lower emissions that cause smog.
- Reduce consumer demand for gasoline and dependence on imported oil.
- Protect public health.
- Protect New Hampshire's environment.



*New Hampshire - Doing Our Share
for Clean Air!*

Partnership for Cleaner Cars

The New Hampshire Automobile Dealers Association, the American Lung Association of New Hampshire, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and the New Hampshire Departments of Environmental Services and Transportation have teamed up to inform the public about cleaner vehicles and encourage consumers to purchase less polluting, more fuel efficient cars and trucks. The partnership has launched a voluntary program known as **Granite State Clean Cars** to make it easier for consumers to identify environmentally superior new vehicles sold at dealerships in New Hampshire.

If you are in the market for a new car, ask your dealer about the **Granite State Clean Cars** program. For information about this program, contact:



New Hampshire Automobile
Dealers Association
(800) 852-3372
www.nhada.com

Appalachian Mountain Club
(603) 466-2721
www.outdoors.org



American Lung Association
of New Hampshire
(800) LUNG-USA
www.nhlung.org

New Hampshire Departments of
Environmental Services and
Transportation
www.des.state.nh.us (800) 498-6868;
webster.state.nh.us/dot/index.htm (603) 271-3734



For additional information, visit the following web
sites:

www.fueleconomy.gov
www.epa.gov/greenvehicles
www.greenercars.com

Cleaner Cars for New Hampshire



Helping people identify cars
that pollute less and are
better for the environment.

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